(c) whether the contract was awarded to a private shipyard whose rates were not lowest nor documents complete; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The refit of INS Udaygiri was partially offloaded to Homa Engineering Works, Mumbai, a private firm. The comprehensive package included dry docking and other works like hull renewal, replacement of pipes, refitting of valves etc.

(c) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in their Audit Para No. 18 of Report No. 7 of 2003, Union Government (Defence Services), Air Force and Navy have pointed out that this contract was awarded to a private firm whose rates were not lowest and whose documents were incomplete.

(d) An Action taken Note is being processed as per laid down procedure.

Sainik schools in Uttar Pradesh

†800. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sainik Schools in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise; and

(b) whether Government are considering to open more Sainik Schools in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no Sainik School run by Ministry of Defence in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. No proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, in this regard, has been received by the Ministry of Defence.

Crash of an IAF aircraft near Hyderabad

801. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Air Force aircraft crashed near Hyderabad on the 6th November, 2003;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of pilots and others, if any, who lost their lives as a result thereof;

(c) whether an inquiry into the crash has been held; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two pilots were killed in the accident.

(c) and (d) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered and is in progress.

Purchase of MIGs and Admiral Gorshkov

802. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement to buy 25 MIG aircrafts along with the Admiral Gorshkov; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No agreement has been entered into, so far.

IMA firing range at Dehradun

803. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun is going to loose its massive live firing range at Asan near Dehradun;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of field firing ranges which have been taken over from Army during the last ten years;

(d) whether it will not have adverse effect on Military Training; and

(e) the alternative arrangements being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The firing range at Asan is notified upto 13th September, 2004 and its notification will be renewed thereafter, on expiry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No ranges have been taken over from the Army during the last ten years.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above question does not arise.